FBIS DAILY REPORT

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NO COMMENT ON U.S. GOVERNMENT'S NUCLEAR WARNING

PY091721 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1543 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 8 Mar (NA) -- San Martin Palace has not made any comment on the warning made by the U.S. Government regarding the Argentine nuclear policy, despite the journalistic consultations. The Ronald Reagan administration warned the Argentine Government yesterday that "it does not differentiate between nuclear weapons and peaceful nuclear explosions," according to a spokesman of the White House in Washington. Foreign Ministry officials were consulted this morning about this matter but no comment was obtained, although the possibility of issuing a declaration in this regard within the next few hours has not been discarded. It is possible also that a reaction may come from the National Atomic Energy Commission.

Press Distortions Scored

PY100124 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2327 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (TELAM) -- Argentina has a clear-cut policy which has time and again been stated in the various international forums and it will not tolerate press interpretations aimed at distorting the true meaning of that policy which is independent, peaceful and designed to promote international cooperation in the nuclear field. The above statement was made this afternoon by the San Martin Palace spokesman in view of remarks made on the Argentine nuclear policy by U.S. State Department spokesman [as received] Thomas Enders in relation to an editorial of the Washington POST. The Foreign Ministry spokesman also noted that the State Department spokesman had reiterated the well-known position of his country on the subject.

Castro Madero Denial

PY100047 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2353 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (NA) -- Vice Adm Carlos Castro Madero, chairman of the Argentine National Atomic Energy Comission, tonight said that it is "completely false" that Argentina had diverted nuclear fuels to make nuclear explosives. In a telephone statement made to NA from Tokyo where he is attending Japan's forum on industrial use of nuclear energy, Castro Madero said that for the time being "there are no projects underway for the construction of nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes since they have not yet proven to be useful, but we cannot keep our hands tied if they prove to be useful in the future."

COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR POWER BUDGET TO BE CUT

PY042303 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 4 Mar 82 p 11

[Excerpts] (NA) -- President Leopoldo Galtieri is studying a proposal to cut the 1982 budget of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA), which may cause serious setbacks in Argentina's atomic development sources revealed yesterday. This news came on the same day as CNEA President Carlos Castro Madero left for Japan, where Argentina will be included for the first time in a head-to-head meeting involving countries with the most advanced nuclear industries. CNEA's 1982 budget request was deemed too high by the Economy Ministry, sources said. The amount CNEA asked for outstrips an estimate for this year's needs, made in 1980, by 100 percent, the sources added.

The proposal, which may compel CNEA to paralyze a number of important projects, also recommends reductions in government allocations for the construction of federal capital urban motorways and the rebuilding of the 9 de Julio Avenue, Economy Ministry sources explained. As for the effect of austerity measures on the country's nuclear program, Castro Madero said the Atucha II reactor and a heavy water factory will be delayed for one year "for budget reasons."

The Embalse reactor, however, will be put into operation this year, the vice admiral added. Castro Madero will speak at the annual atomic industrial forum on Tuesday. Argentina's participation in the Tokyo meeting is considered by observers as a sign of its dominant role in the nuclear advances of developing countries. Vice Admiral Castro Madero is expected to speak out against the embargos on nuclear technology which are imposed by many of the technologically advanced countries attending the Tokyo forum.

GOVERNMENT MAY SELL ARMS TO SALVADORAN JUNTA

PY100116 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2317 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Sources of the arms trade sector told this agency that Argentina hopes to supply El Salvador with planes for antiguerrilla combat, rifles and ammunition. The sources attributed to high-ranking military officers the statement that an excellent opportunity for Argentina to sell its Pucara planes to El Salvador opened after the visit which Col Rafael Flores Lima, the Salvadoran armed forces chief of staff, paid to Argentina. The sources stated that Argentina also hopes to supply the civilian-military junta with automatic rifles, manufactured in Argentina under Belgian license, and with ammunition.

During his 1-week visit to Argentina Colonel Flores Lima visited several arms factories and Army Chief of Staff Gen Jose Vaquero stated publicly that Argentina would grant all its possible aid to the Salvadoran junta in the struggle against the leftist guerrilla groups.

The Pucara is a twin propeller plane designed and built in Argentina for antiguerrilla combat. The Argentine Air Force has 45 Pucara planes and 5 others were sold to Uruguay. It can be fitted with machineguns, cannons and rockets.

Last week during his visit to Brazil, Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez stated that Argentina may sell arms to El Salvador but he reiterated statements made previously by President Leopoldo Galtieri that no Argentine troops would be sent to that country.

According to diplomatic sources in Buenos Aires, at present there are some 100 Argentine military advisers in El Salvador together with other advisers linked to the Salvadoran Armed Forces combat units. Argentine authorities have denied the presence of Argentine military advisers in El Salvador.

CENTRAL AMERICA DOMINATES ENDERS' MEETINGS

PY092212 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 9 Mar 82 p 9

[Text] (NA) -- U.S. Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs Thomas Enders met with President Leopoldo Galtieri and Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez yesterday for discussion of a variety of subjects which were dominated by the situation in Central America. Enders and Costa Mendez held talks yesterday at the Foreign Ministry. At mid-day, the two men and U.S. Ambassador to Argentina Harry Shlaudeman were received by President Leopoldo Galtieri in Government House for further discussions.

Enders also met with Economy Minister Roberto Alemann at 5 pm.

Costa Mendez told reporters last night that he and Enders had talked about the situation in Central America "with attention and concern," although he mentioned neither El Salvador nor Guatemala. Diplomatic sources revealed that Enders discussed a number of other issues with Argentine authorities including the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands dispute between Argentina and Great Britain, a possible censure of Poland in the United Nations for its human rights record, the situation in Bolivia, and trade with the European Common Market (EEC) countries.

Enders spoke with Argentine officials about "military aid that Argentina might give to the El Salvador Government," diplomatic sources said. To date Argentine officials have let slip two hints of military aid to El Salvador. Army Chief of Staff Jose Vaquero recently said that "help will be given to (El Salvador) when possible." During his visit to Brazil last week Costa Mendez explained that Argentina could sell arms and supplies to El Salvador, if the national authorities in Buenos Aires decide to do so.

San Martin Palace sources said that Enders received a lengthy briefing on the Malvinas (Falkland) Islands dispute between Argentina and Great Britain, and that he showed special interest in the subject. The sources hinted that Argentina's energetic protests to Great Britain concerning the Malvinas issue might coincide with U.S. hemispheric defence interests.

Argentina asked the U.S. to pitch in with economic assistance for Bolivia's military government, official sources said.

European Common Market trade barriers and their effect on international trade offered yet another topic for the U.S.-Argentine talks.

FEDERAL POLICE BAN JUSTICIALIST PARTY MEETING

PY091958 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1500 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (NA) -- A spokesman of the Justicialist Party today reported that the Argentine Federal Police have banned a political meeting scheduled for 1900 tomorrow at the Castelar Hotel of this city. The meeting was to be held under the banner of "Justicialism, the Multiparty Group and the institutionalization of the nation," and various prominent political personalities were to lecture on these three subjects. Gabriel Damil, a member of the Justicialist Party Council, told this news agency that Torcuato Fino had been advised by Federal Police Chief Santiago Martella that the meeting scheduled for tomorrow could not be held.

GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES DEMONSTRATION QUASHED

PY091804 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1633 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Mar (NA) -- The police today repressed a government employees demonstration that was heading for the Economy Ministry and arrested several persons. However, a union delegation was able to enter the Economy Ministry and submitted a request in which it demands the government lift the freeze on salaries of government employees. A police riot unit carrying tear gas guns and rifles advanced toward the demonstration, which had been detained by other policemen when it entered Plaza de Mayo on its way to the Economy Ministry. When the two groups encountered each other there was some shoving and kicking. Union leader Horacio Alonso (Judicial Employee's Union) was hurled to the ground amidst the general retreat and shouting of the demonstrators.

At first it was thought that Juan Horvath (state employees union leader) had been arrested, but it was confirmed later that he had been taken by a police patrol to the Economy Ministry where Horvath, Geronimo Izetta (Buenos Aires Province municipal employees union leader), and Luis Etchezar (leader of The Fraternity), among other union leaders, to submit their request.

Amidst the reigning confusion union leaders reported that in addition to Horvath, also arrested were a railroad machinist whose last name is West, another one whose last name is Rodriguez from ATE [State Workers Association] and Eladio Martinez (jucicial employees leader). However, in the last three cases it could not be confirmed whether they were arrested or taken like Horvath to the Economy Ministry.

MOBILIZATION PROGRAM APPROVED BY CGT PLENUM

PY092204 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0229 GMT 5 Mar 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Mar (NA) -- The plenum of secretary generals of the General Labor Confederation (CGT) approved its mobilization program and has appointed a commission to coordinate actions with the intersectoral National Workers Committee (CNT-20), which in its plenum of member labor unions also decided to mobilize itself.

In this way the Argentine labor union leadership, which with the exception of short intervals has been divided since the military government took over 6 years ago, is headed toward unity in its confrontation with the authorities and especially in its opposition to the implementation of the current economic policy.

No type of official measure prevented the holding of the plenum last night, which was attended by representatives of 88 labor unions, contrary to what happened 2 weeks ago when the same meeting was thwarted by the presence of the police. No police patrol cars were seen near the CGT headquarters in Constitucion neighborhood yesterday.

A communique disclosed that the plenum decided "to unanimously and with applause approve the activities of the Executive Council and especially the proposed mobilization program."

"The National Executive Council" was also authorized "to determine the characteristics of the end of the first phase" of the plan, which is already being carried out through the contacts the CGT is maintaining with the Multiparty Group, businessmen and other sectors.

The third resolution said "in compliance with the permanent desire for unity voiced by the CGT, it was decided to take the necessary steps for achieving this unity." It was learned that this resolution implicitly made reference to the appointment of a commission to talk with the intersectoral committee.

The commission would be comprised of eight members of the Executive Council, among them Secretary General Saul Ubaldini. It would also include Alfonso Millar (glass industry workers), Osvaldo Borda (rubber industry workers), Roberto Garcia (taxi drivers), Roberto Digon (tobacco industry workers), Fernando Donaires (paper industry workers), Ricardo Perez (truck drivers) and Alberto Cladera (stevedores).

The last resolution of the plenary is to "remain in a state of permanent assembly."

A shower of leaflets reading "mobilization and courage to defend our fatherland, CGT," fell from the second floor of the building on 1400 Brasil Street at the end of the meeting.

U.S. AWARENESS OF COMMUNIST DANGER IN C.A. PRAISED

FY092115 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 1 Mar 82 p 2

[Editorial: "Reagan's Plan"]

[Excerpts] It is only natural for Reagan's plan to concern Central American nations. However, everybody wonders why the United States did not react in this way as soon as it saw the imminent danger threatening this region. Or is it part of U.S. foreign policy to leave the initiative up to others and let the world idly watch while great perils threaten it. Therefore, whatever its position, it must be noted that since U.S. reaction was not immediate it lacks the impact it would have had if similar action had been taken at the start of subversive activities in the region.

Without being extremely harsh, we must note that throughout the Central American region -- also in South America -- there are numerous unsolved social problems that enable the communist dialectic, which now embraces an exacerbating violence, to gain followers who do not hesitate to rely on violence in the hope of achieving better living conditions for themselves and their families. Destructive dictatorships, that have governed with the support of minorities, have postponed for years the development of the region and contributed to the establishment of social gaps and increasing economic differences between the vast majority and a selected minority.

However, the United States has reacted in a clear manner, justifying its action by saying: "If we do not act promptly and decisively in defense of freedom, new Cubas will arise from the ruins of today's conflicts." There is awareness, therefore, of a reality that has already taken thousands of lives in a struggle that will eventually yield a conqueror. According to President Reagan communism may be victorious if prompt action is not taken and essential aid granted to Central American countries so that they may solve their urgent problems.

The struggle over the ideological domination of the world is increasing. Actions are being taken at all levels. Therefore, those who have more power and rely on intelligent initiatives and undertakings to aid their neighbors will be victorious. In its capacity as the most important world power opposing communism, the United States has the duty to act without hesitation and firmly, since the fate of the world depends on it.

RADIO STATIONS DEMAND INDEMNITY FROM GOVERNMENT

FY092041 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0107 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Excerpts] La Paz, 9 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Bolivian radio stations will request government indemnity for the period of time during which the official radio network -- which started on 17 July 1980 and was discontinued at the end of 1981 -- lasted. This decision was made known at the end of a meeting of the Bolivian Radio Stations Association, an organization which groups all the owners of radio stations in the country. The censorship of expression, as the radio station owners termed the government imposition, caused the radio stations losses of revenues from commercial advertisements. The stations are demanding indemnity from the government through cancelling the payment of taxes the radio stations have outstanding with the treasury.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE TO CONGRESS FOUND UNREAL

PY090305 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 3 Mar 82 p 3

[From "Notes and Information" page: "Beyond Reality"]

[Text] If there is an official document of little value for those who want to write about these difficult times, that document is the introduction to the presidential message to Congress. This does not mean that the document is lacking in information about almost all problems we face. It contains a lot of affirmations and even the citation of a foreign author as the testimony that we are moving in the right direction with our energy policy. The document is just lacking in reliable information. In fact, rarely has one seen a presidential document of such poor coherence, so far removed from the reality it wants to depict and with so many references to personal, not collective projects, as the one we are referring to. Perhaps because of all these flaws in form and content, the introduction to the 1982 presidential message is the full length picture of a government which is insecure about its directives and contradictory in its actions. Its only coherence -- fortunately for all of us, we hope -- can be found in the reaffirmation to do everything to restore a state of law in Brazil.

The insecurity and contradictory nature of the government can be clearly seen in the message's introduction. It suffices to focus attention on what it says about the salary policy which, at one time, is presented as a factor for "the strong inflationary feedback" and at another as an indispensable factor for the distribution of income among the workers. Or attention can be paid to the lecture which it gives Congress about the political onus which inflation represents for the government and about the monetary correction mechanism which was installed so people can be spared suffering. These are not the only samples of insecurity and contradictions: reading about the high interest rates one has the impression that the chief of government does not feel in the least responsible for the hardships they cause businessmen and people in general. Yet this is not the last revelation in the presidential message because, as the message moves from a description of the international crisis affecting us (until when, Cicero would say, will they abuse our patience, telling us that the international crisis is responsible for our troubles?) to "all the other problems afflicting Brazilian society," one gets a fright: the first of "the other problems" is ecological....

This is a message which was prepared by people who really believe that reality in Brazil is as they see it from their offices at the Praca dos Tres Poderes [Plaza of the Three Branches of Government] -- only one in reality -- and the Esplanada dos Ministerios. This is why that reality assumes some strange forms sometime, as it does when the number of Brazilians who will receive nutritional assistance is brought up -- as though it was a merit for any government to see that number of needy Brazilians "in areas of great poverty" receiving government assistance jumps from 460,000 to 5 million. The ideal would be exactly the opposite. But how to measure what is right and what is wrong if the chief of government seems proud of the fact that the union is present everywhere in everything, even in paving streets encircling medium-sized cities and state capitals for buses to ride over them? Has the sense of proportion been lost and consequently the sense of how far the competence of union, the states and the municipalities go?

Not only those senses have been lost, the sense of reality is also missing from the presidential message. The sense of what democracy is has also been lost. It is in referring to democracy that the document is submerged in subjectivity when it should have been objective, considering democracy's institutional aims. Instead of giving a real account of what happened last year and what will be done this year to attain the state of law, the document dwells on a personal project, describing positive actions that have been taken in previous years without making any reference to negative actions incurred in last year.

That is why the president can express his liberal faith in the message, because he has no recollection of any real facts. After all, how can a chief of a government which is dominated by state-run enterprises say that he defends private enterprise? How can the president of a government with ministers who lose no occasion to badmouth liberalism call himself a liberal? How can the commander in chief of the armed forces decry the "friend-foe" polarization if some of his ministers, military and civilian, uphold that polarization, and if the commander in chief himself makes a distinction between the nation and the armed forces in his speeches to the latter?

On top of all that, the introduction to the presidential message uncovers the pessimism of its author who cannot believe in the possibility of improvement of political institutions because he starts off from the premise that the citizen is "irremediably imperfect" and because he emphasizes the aphorism that "destroying is easy, building is difficult." If the political year which lies ahead turns out to be a reflection of such insecurities and contradictions, especially of the atrocious pessimism with which the president is tormented, it will no doubt be a difficult although decisive year.

OPPOSITION TO FIGHT GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED BILL

PY092101 Sao Paulo Radio Bandeirantes Network in Portuguese 0230 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Brazilian opposition parties have stated that they will struggle against the government's decision which sets new deadlines for affiliation with parties and which benefits those who are not satisfied with the PP [Popular Party]-PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] merger.

[Begin Brasilia relay] [Question] The government has already decided to extend the deadline for affiliation with other political parties by those who are dissatisfied with the PMDB-PP merger. Deputy Odacir Klein, what will be the PMDB's position regarding this bill which is being submitted to Congress?

[Begin recording] [Answer] The bill is unconstitutional because the constitution prescribes equality before the law. If the bill were passed, PMDB members would be treated differently from members of other parties, because the former could shift to any other party while the others could not leave their party and could not join the PMDB either. This violates the [word indistinct] principle. We will submit another bill, an amendment allowing everyone to leave his party and join any other party. [end recording]

According to the government-sponsored bill, the deadlines for dissatisfied PMDB and PP members to join another party are 14 August and 4 August respectively. The government has also withdrawn its support for the bill which removes -- for the next elections -- the requirement compelling each party to gain 5 percent of votes all over the country with at least 3 percent in nine states. The decision is to the direct advantage of the Workers Party, the Workers Democratic Party and the Brazilian Labor Party.

This has been (Carlos Rodrigues) reporting from Brasilia.

SEVEN OPPOSITION DEPUTIES JOIN RULING PARTY

PY092149 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Mar 82 p 5

[Excerpt] Brasilia -- Deputy Prisco Viana, secretary general of the Social Democratic Party [PDS], yesterday announced that the following Popular Party federal deputies have joined the PDS thus far: Magalhaes Pinto (Minas Gerais), Helio Lobato (Para), Lucia Viveiros (Para), Mendes de Mello (Santa Catarina) and Pericles Goncalves (Rio de Janeiro). Deputies Marcondes Gadelha (Paraiba) and Temistocles Teixeira (Maranhao), from the Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party, have also joined the PDS.

SAO PAULO POPULAR PARTY CHAIRMAN RESIGNS

PY092148 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 3 Mar 82 p 1

[Excerpt] Former [Sao Paulo] Mayor Olavo Setubal yesterday announced his resignation as chairman of the Sao Paulo branch of the Popular Party [PP]. He noted that he will not join another party and that he will no longer participate in political activities after the elections because he believes that the PP's incorporation into the PMDB [Brazilian Democratic Mobilization Party] "has left liberal politicians no room" and "has made it more difficult for the government to effectively reunite with its society."

CANADIAN MINISTER MEETS SARAIVA, OFFICIALS

PY100234 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] The fourth meeting of the Canadian-Brazilian joint commission today opened in Itamaraty with the participation of Brazilian Foreign Minister Saraiva Guerreiro and Canadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mark MacGuigan. At the end of the meeting Itamaraty issued a press communique reporting that, in the course of the talks held, the two ministers voiced their desire to overcome the obstacles to peace and development, on the basis of equality and mutual respect. As to the international economic situation the two ministers agreed on the need for Brazil and Canada to work together to stimulate development and international cooperation for the benefit of all nations.

On the Law of the Sea meeting, the parties reaffirmed the significance of a prompt worldwide agreement on this issue.

Senate Chairman Jarbas Passarinho today met with Canadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mark MacGuigan. The two parties discussed the possibilities for greater rapprochement between the Brazilian and Canadian peoples.

Nelson Marchezan, chairman of the Chamber of Deputies, today met with Canadian Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mark MacGuigan with whom he discussed political and diplomatic issues. On this occasion President Figueiredo's visit to Canada in the near future was also discussed.

BULGARIA'S TANCHEV ARRIVES, INVITED BY SENATE

PY100210 Brasilia Domestic Service in Portuguese 2200 GMT 9 Mar 82

[From the "Congressional Report"]

[Text] In response to an invitation issued by Brazil's Federal Senate, First Deputy Chairman of the State Council of Bulgaria Petur Tanchev arrived in Brasilia today. The deputy chairman is accompanied by his wife and several advisers. The visitor had no activities scheduled for this afternoon. This evening he will attend a dinner given in his honor by the Bulgarian ambassador. Tanchev's agenda for tomorrow and Thursday is very busy. He will meet with Senate Chairman Jarbas Passarinho, with the Chairman of the Chamber of Deputies Nelson Marchezan and with other party leaders. At 1630 he will meet President Figueiredo. On Friday he will fly to Rio de Janeiro.

SAUDI PLANNING MINISTER DISCUSSES COOPERATION

PY082138 Paris AFP in Spanish 1531 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Brasilia, 9 Mar (AFP) -- Saudi Arabian Planning Minister Hisham Muhyi ad-Din Nazir last night held a lengthy meeting with Brazilian Industries and Commerce Minister Camilo Penna during which the possibility of increasing the cooperation between the two countries was discussed.

Saudi Arabian sources reported that Riyadh is prepared to invest in Brazil either in entirely Brazilian projects or in projects aimed at exporting goods to other countries. Over the coming months Brazil will convey to the appropriate Saudi Arabian officials a list of projects which can be financed by their country. Even though Brazil maintains outstanding relations with Iraq, especially in the fields of arms supply, it is beginning to look for new partners in that area in view of the war between Iran and Iraq. The Brazilians are hoping to obtain contracts for supplying services and construction capability. The trade balance between Brazil and Saudi Arabia has yielded a deficit for the former to the tune of $2 billion in view of Brazil's oil imports. Brazil is exporting to Saudi Arabia foodstuffs, especially frozen chicken.

COUNTRY TO RESORT TO GATT ON CARIBBEAN PLAN

PY090023 Sao Paulo FOLHA DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 6 Mar 82 p 16

[Text] Brasilia -- If the United States implements its program to strengthen the Central American countries' economies, Brazil will resort to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in order to prevent serious damage to exports of its basic goods.

This warning was made yesterday by Tarcisio Marciano da Rocha, head of the Finance Ministry's coordinating office for international affairs, who believes that the program announced by Reagan's government -- according to what has been learned about the program up to now -- would represent serious discrimination against Brazil, thus contradicting one of the GATT's main principles

Da Rocha stated that "as soon as the United States approves this program the Finance Ministry will conclude the studies on the repercussions the program will have on the Brazilian economy and will submit the studies to Itamaraty so that ways of appealing to the GATT can be adopted."

According to Da Rocha, the Brazilian Government has been quite successful in its measures taken against initiatives by U.S. industries that are trying to convince the U.S. Commerce Department to impose surcharges on Brazilian goods exported to the United States.

He disclosed that by next week the U.S. Commerce Department will make an announcement on its final decision regarding Brazilian shoes and that the government hopes that it will be a satisfactory decision. Da Rocha stated: "It is possible we will have good news for our exporters."

Minister Galveas' advisor stated that five of the six problems regarding the steel sector have been solved, all in Brazil's favor, and that the only one remaining to be solved concerns heavy gauge steel plates, but that should be solved by the end of this month.

The Brazilian Government also plans to carry out a vast survey among local enterprises in order to draw up a list of goods to be inscribed in the U.S. General Preference System (GPS) with the purpose of exempting them totally from taxes for a period of 8 years. This list should be submitted by 1 June 1982. In order to be included in this list the exports of the goods in question should not surpass $46 million nor represent more than 50 percent of U.S. imports of the same product.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE ENDERS ARRIVES

PY100059 Santiago Chile Diplomatic Information Service in Spanish 2245 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs Thomas O. Enders and his wife arrived in Santiago de Chile this afternoon. He is scheduled to meet with the Chilean foreign minister at 1815 at the Red Hall. Later a dinner will be given in his honor at the Manso de Velasco residence. President Pinochet will hold an official meeting with Assistant Secretary Enders at La Moneda Palace at 1630 tomorrow.

NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR RECEIVED; REAGAN POLICY PRAISED

PY090204 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Relay from Government House by Graciela Contreras]

[Excerpt] This afternoon U.S. Ambassador James Theberge presented his letter of credentials to President Pinochet. He has arrived in Chile where he will take his new post. On this occasion, during the ceremony which took place at La Moneda Palace, the president of the republic voiced the government's satisfaction with President Ronald Reagan's willingness to reestablish confidence in the relationship and cooperation between our two countries. He added that this restores the positive level which has characterized our relationship throughout history.

During the ceremony in which the new U.S. ambassador presented his credentials, the chief of state reiterated that peace has great importance for us.

PERU'S FISHERIES MINISTER ARRIVES; ACCORD NEEDED

PY081818 Santiago Chile Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] In the field of fisheries, Peruvian-Chilean relations are excellent, according to Peruvian Minister of Fisheries Rene Deustua who made this remark after meeting with Chilean Economy Minister Gen Rolando Ramos today.

The Peruvian minister added that his visit to Chile seeks greater rapprochement between the fishing sectors of the two countries. He said that in this way, future scientific activities could be coordinated in order to acquire better knowledge of the situation and the needs of each nation.

He stated that the idea is to reach a fishing accord between the two countries so that they can help each other. He noted that his country's policy is to make efforts to preserve the [various] species. In this regard he recalled that Peru had a very bad experience in 1972 when anchovies disappeared creating serious problems. He also reported that little by little his country is giving up the production of fishmeal, using fish for human consumption whenever possible.

BRIEFS

PATROL BOATS PURCHASED -- Brazil will complete delivery of 10 ocean patrol boats to the Chilean Navy in April. These boats have been bought by Chile, which has already received eight of them over a period of 1 and 1/2 years. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1533 GMT 28 Feb 82 PY]

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES -- The rate of unemployment in greater Santiago climbed to 12.5 percent during the last quarter. This is a percentage higher than same quarter last year. [Paris AFP in Spanish 0220 GMT 3 Mar 82 PY]

LEMOS COMMENTS AGAIN ON U.S. MILITARY BASES

PA092200 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- Foreign Minister Carlos Lemos Simmonds once again denied that there have been any contacts with the United States regarding the installation of military bases in Colombia. He also said that he does not believe that the United States has an urgent need to use Colombian territory in order to defend the Caribbean. In a statement for CARACOL Network's "Five Reporters" and "The Personage of the Week" programs, Lemos Simmonds said that U.S. journalists have overplayed this information. He pointed out that U.S. military capacity is so great that the United States can defend from within its own territory regions that are thousands of kilometers away. He again explained that Colombia will respect its agreements regarding collective security and will honor these agreements when necessary, but Colombia hopes its role in the area will never be a military one. It would be sad if some day we had to apply the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty, but it would be even sadder if we needed to apply it and refrained from doing so because then we would be permitting aggression to a Latin American country, the foreign minister said.

Lemos Simmonds stressed that U.S. intervention is still uncertain but that intervention by extracontinental powers is a fact. We know that Cuba is the orchestrator of all the subversive movements operating in Colombia that are trying to change our system. The foreign minister also referred to the statement by Colombian Ambassador to Washington Fernando Gaviria Cadavid, who admitted that talks are underway between Colombia and the United States regarding the use of airports. Lemos blamed himself because the official had not been warned of the discretion that should have been exercised on this subject. Asked if the official would be fired, he said that in such a case, the only resignation that would be appropriate would be his own.

ARMY CAPTURES 17 RANKING M-19 GUERRILLAS

PA100313 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Bogota -- Seventeen alleged high-ranking guerrillas of the so-called national base coordinating board of the outlawed 19 April Movement, M-19, were captured in Bogota, while [words indistinct] the previous day in the mountainous areas of Cauca Department. Military sources have said that among those arrested in Bogota is (Hugo Oswaldo Chavez Urrutia), known as (Martin). He is third in command in that extremist organization in Bogota and is accused of having killed U.S. geologist Allan Bitterman on 7 March 1981, several months after his abduction. Today EL TIEMPO published an extensive report on the smashing blow which a military brigade dealt the guerrillas in Bogota. The paper published the photos of the 17 arrestees, 6 of whom are women. According to military reports the prisoners, who were remanded to the Military Criminal Examining Court No 144, are accused of several terrorist acts recently perpetrated in Bogota. They are (Pedro Jose Rodriguez), (Luis Augusto Medina Roa), (Carlos Alberto Jaramillo Restrepo), (Jorge Enrique Rodriguez Alvarez), (Jaime Rana Duarte), (Gustavo Restrepo Gonzalez), (Carlos Arturo Salamanca Villegas), (Oscar Jose Nunez), (Luis Mario Duque Rodriguez), (Carlos Mario Acevedo Martinez), (Alba Conseulo Ramos), (Gloria Isabel Barreto de Ocampo), (Marta Mejia Sanchez de Cuba), (Luz Maria Velan de Morena) and (Luz Amparo Jimenez Perez).

The Defense Ministry said that heavy clashes are taking place in the mountainous Cauca area. The ministry added that nine guerrillas were killed yesterday following a guerrilla attack on Almaguer. Therefore, regular troops have killed 25 guerrillas in the last 48 hours. Meanwhile, (Jose Galo Cordova), (Real Reno), and (Isabel Diaz de Contes) were arrested in Santander Department. They are accused of belonging to an armed command of the clandestine National Liberation Army, ELN.

U.S. POSITION ON PERU-ECUADOR DISPUTE LAUDED

PY091100 Paris AFP in Spanish 0047 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 2 Mar (AFP) -- Peruvian Foreign Minister Javier Arias voiced here today his satisfaction with a statement made last Sunday by the U.S. Department of State to the effect that the United States will not take any actions outside the Rio de Janeiro Protocol to settle the border dispute between Peru and Ecuador. Earlier reports had quoted Secretary of State Alexander Haig as having offered to mediate between the two South American countires to settle the dispute. Arias said: We are very pleased with that statement (made yesterday) through which the United States has confirmed its decision to act as a guarantor, in keeping with the statements made by the guarantors at the OAS. Arias also said that the best guarantee for peace is respect for the international legal order and that peace is jeopardized if this order is disrupted or if international treaties are not observed.

PRESIDENT DENOUNCES FOREIGN HAND IN TERRORISM

PY091540 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1855 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 8 Mar (TELAM) -- Peruvian President Fernando Belaunde Terry and Chimbote Bishop Luis Bambaren have both charged the existence of foreign intervention in the recent terrorist actions involving a series of dynamite attacks.

Belaunde Terry expanded on his charges by stating that there is an alliance between drug trafficking and terrorists which results in "narco-terrorism," combined with the objective of destabilizing the government, and he termed this a new threat to the civilized world.

On his part, Msgr Bambaren before leaving for Bogota where he will participate in a meeting of the Latin American Bishops Council (CELAM), stated that it would be not surprising that the recent terrorist acts were carried out with the help of foriegn intervention. He also said that judging from experience, where this kind of event had taken place before, the existence of foreign aid had been discovered, not only economic but with weapons and highly-trained personnel as well.

According to the Peruvian president, the union between vice and violence shows that the subversives are seeking financial support, because terrorism before only gained satisfaction by the destruction of powerline towers. He added that his government is studying the possibility of establihsing a compulsory police service in order to counteract the effects of violence. Regarding the intervention of the armed forces -- as suggested by some politicians, including some of his own party -- he said that it is worth study, but that the appropriate conditions must be given for this.

During the past few days, terrorists set off a number of dynamite explosions in the cities of Trujillo -- where the targets were the house of a police officer and the police station -- and in Chimbote, where the attack that could have left the city in darkness failed. In Chiclayo, a person left a briefcase with explosives and police uniforms.

In Ayacucho, they attacked the mayor's house and caused a 5-minute blackout. A state of emergency is effect in this department following an attack on the local prison which allowed the escape of 300 detainees, including several terrorists. Forty of these detainees have already been recaptured or have surrendered voluntarily.

In Huaraz, northeast of Lima, a gelignite charge placed in the building containing the Superior Court went off and wounded a teacher who was passing by. In Ilave, in Puno Department, the site of the Agrarian Bank was also attacked.

Labor Minister Alfonso Grados Bertonini appealed last night on television for a united struggle against terrorism, immorality, political gangsterism and drug trafficking. He lashed out against what he called the shining terrorist union (alluding to the Maoist group Shining Path) which uses different methods but always with the same philosophy, that of class struggle. He also accused the labor organizations of the extreme left with being responsible for the growing wave of strikes in the country.

FORMER APRA LEGISLATOR FOUNDS RADICAL PARTY

PY091101 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 15 Feb 82 p 2

[Text] Peru has a new political party. The party, founded by former legislator and former APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] party member Carlos Enrique Ferreyros, will go by the name of the Radical Party [Partido Radical]. Ferreyros told EXPRESO about the new party, noting that it will be officially established during this week.

[Question] Sir, you are a former APRA member. After your resignation from the APRA you founded the "Bread and Freedom" [Pan y Libertad] [movement] and now you have founded the Radical Party. Does this mean that you are parting from Haya de la Torre's guidelines?

[Answer] Not at all, I am rather following them. In his last television interview Haya de la Torre said that the APRA Party had achieved certain things and that everything had to be picked up from there.

[Question] How do you view the APRA Party?

[Answer] What APRA? There is no APRA. It disappeared with Haya de la Torre. Now there are two factions quarreling over an image, but Haya de la Torre is above any villainy since he belongs to Peru and Latin America.

POLICE ARREST CHILEAN FOR 'NONTOURIST' PHOTOGRAPHY

PY100057 Paris AFP in Spanish 2248 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 9 Mar (AFP) -- Peruvian security police this morning arrested Chilean Manuel Molinas Zuniga, 40, at the international airport of Lima. The police explained that the traveler, who had arrived from Miami, was caught taking nontourist photographs at the airport. After preliminary investigation, the Chilean was taken to the office of the State Security Police for further questioning.

SOVIET FISHING BOATS WORRY LOCAL FISHERMEN

PY091802 Paris AFP in Spanish 2138 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] Lima, 8 Mar (AFP) -- It was learned here today that the fishermen's union of Paita, northern Peru, had denounced Soviet, Polish and Cuban fishing boats that are plundering the Peruvian fishing grounds. Asked about the presence of Soviet fishing boats in Peruvian waters, President Fernando Belaunde stated yesterday, Sunday, that they should not cause any concern because they only receive maintenance according to a previous agreement. The Paita fishermen stated, however, that they cannot compete with the fishing technology of Soviet, Polish and Cuban boats which process the fish for human consumption and deprive the Peruvian markets. They added that this impunity must not continue and that if the voracity of the foreign businessmen is not stopped, several Peruvian companies will have to close for lack of raw material, thus laying off thousands of workers.

HEAVY RESIDUAL FUEL PRICE DECREASED AGAIN

PA010313 Paris AFP in Spanish 0033 GMT 1 Mar 82

[Text] Caracas, 28 Feb (AFP) -- The Venezuelan Government has decreased the price of high sulphur content residual fuel for the third time this year, it was reported here. The latest decrease is an average of $.80 per barrel effective today and comes in reply to strong pressure to decrease the prices which have prevailed in the oil market over the last 2 weeks. According to sources of the Venezuelan Petroleum Company [PETROVEN] the decision was made "in answer to Mexico's decision to decrease the price of its fuel."

In January and February, Venezuela decreased its price by $1 and then by $.70, which together with today's $.80 decrease makes an average total decrease of $2.50 per barrel on high sulphur content oil this year.

According to the same sources, it has been estimated that the price decreases for Mexico's high-sulphur content residual fuel place it more than $4 below Venezuela's price.

At the same time, the decreases made by Exxon and Shell on the east coast [of the United States] several weeks ago, dropped Venezuela's oil to an uncompetitive position, concluded the PETROVEN spokesman.

BUDGET TO BE CUT DUE TO DROP IN OIL PRICES

PA270406 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2352 GMT 25 Feb 82

[Text] Caracas, 25 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) -- Venezuela will reduce its budget by 5.7 percent as a result of decreased revenue due to the glut on the international markets of petroleum, the country's main export. The announcement was made by Finance Minister Luis Ugueto, appearing before congress today to explain the consequences that the drop in oil prices will have in the country. The budget of expenditures for 1982 had been estimated by the government in $20.4 billion. Ugueto said that the budget reduction will be added to a 10 percent cut in the expenditures as well as to the measures that have already been adopted to guarantee a greater fiscal discipline. In this way we will be able to confront the expected drop in petroleum revenue, Ugueto said.

The finance minister added that the budget reductions will be applied as much as possible to current expenditures even though there will be a $250 million reduction in the Venezuelan investment fund whose budget amounts to $1.1 billion.

Ugueto indicated that no decrease is expected in the revenue which is not related with petroleum. That revenue is estimated in $5.8 billion. He also said this situation will not have an important effect on the economic activity. "We believe that the level of economic activity will not suffer any impact and even if we did not cut the budget, we would still have a favorable surplus in our external account," he added.

PRESIDENT SENDS ANNIVERSARY MESSAGE TO GUYANA

PA050144 Paris AFP in Spanish 2044 GMT 3 Mar 82

[Text] Georgetown, 3 Mar (AFP) -- Venezuelan President Luis Herrera Campins has sent a message to Guyanese President Forbes Burnham, on the 12th anniversary of Guyana's independence, although there is a border conflict between the two nations. In the message, published today by the Georgetown newspaper, GUYANA CHRONICLE, President Herrera Campins syas that "This is a good opportunity to express our best wishes for the prosperity of Guyana, and to renew the close ties existing between the two countries." Guyana became independent on 23 February 1970. Guyanese relations with Venezuela became tense last April, after President Herrera Campins' government confirmed its demand for an extensive territory which amounts to five-eighths of Guyana's present area.

COSTA RICA'S MONGE BEGINS VISIT WITH PRESIDENT

Comments on El Salvador

FL091210 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0220 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- Luis Alberto Monge, the president-elect of Costa Rica, today described the peace proposal for Central America made by President Lopez Portillo as a "truly realistic one to solve the crisis in the area and prevent the Salvadoran conflict from prolonging the bloodbath."

Monge, who arrived today in Mexico City to meet with the Mexican president, said that negotiations "are the only correct, civilized and humane road to overcome the crisis in Central America." He added that the Costa Ricans do not believe that either the Salvadoran conflict or the threat of other bellicose confrontations in the area can lead to a solution to the problem, since with that road "the only thing we would be doing would be to cause a bloodbath in the area." Regarding the Salvadoran conflict, Monge said that after the 28 March elections, the doors to a dialogue should remain open in order to reach a negotiated political solution.

He said: "We Costa Ricans also want peace in the border with Nicaragua." He added: "Our government will be a pluralist one and will have relations with all governments in order to reduce tensions." He said that this did not mean that it would accept ideological tendencies. It would strictly respect the principles of nonintervention and the self-determination of peoples.

He stressed: "In Costa Rica there is political stability, and we are prepared to offer all support so that the negative phenomena in the area do not become destabilizing factors in our country or others in the area."

When questioned on his visit to Mexico, Monge said that he will discuss with President Lopez Portillo topics dealing with petroleum, Central America and the Caribbean, as well as bilateral relations. Tomorrow Monge will travel to Merida, Yucatan, where he will meet with PRI presidential candidate Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado.

Press Conference

FL091620 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0352 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico City, 8 Mar (NOTIMEX) -- At a time when Central America is the center of confrontation between powers while its nations only provide the dead, Costa Rica will continue to be Mexico's ally in its struggle for peace and the peoples' right to self-determination, stated Costa Rica's President-elect Luis Alberto Monge, during a press conference tonight at the Los Pinos official residence after a meeting with President Jose Lopez Portillo. The new Costa Rican leader said he had discussed with the Mexican president the rules which will guide relations between their two countries, their common views, trade and other types of exchange.

He said that his government will maintain its solidarity with the Mexican people and that his country will remain ademocracy in the eye of the storm which the Central American region represents today. He said he had agreed with Lopez Portillo to send soon a mission representing the new Costa Rican Government and members of private enterprise who will examine the current oil agreement between the two countries, and other matters. He also agreed with President Lopez Portillo in stressing that the only way out of the Central American and Salvadoran problems is a political solution negotiated through dialogue between the parties in conflict. He affirmed that bellicose confrontation would not resolve the problems of the area and will continue the bloodbath of the Central American peoples. That is the reason, he said, that his administration is willing to help Mexico in the search for peace in Latin America.

Moreover, he added, Mexico continues to offer its services without conditions and without impairing self-determination or sovereignty. Luis Alberto Monge said that the cold war phenomenon has created a crisis in Central America where the superpowers confront each other while Central Americans provide the dead.

Commenting on the state of the Costa Rican economy, the president-elect said that the International Monetary Fund had brought his nation to its knees. He stressed that the Central American political crisis has its roots in the economic problems and that the Reagan administration has started to become aware of it. Finally, Monge called for the strengthening of solidarity among Central American nations as much in theory as in practice in order to fight the political conscience crisis and the sudden attacks it has been subjected to by the superpowers.

HUNGARY'S MARJAI MEETS WITH LOPEZ PORTILLO

LD091126 Budapest MTI in English 1035 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Mexico, 9 Mar (MTI) -- On Monday Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo received Hungarian Deputy Premier Jozsef Marjai who is currently on an official visit there at the invitation of the Mexican Government. At the friendly meeting they discussed some important questions of the international situation and timely tasks of the development of bilateral relations.

It was expressed emphatically that on the fundamental international issues the two countries held identical or close views and also that the Hungarian-Mexican relations were friendly and smooth. President Lopez Portillo and Jozsef Marjai shared the opinion that there were still untapped possibilities in the expansion of cooperation and both the Hungarian and the Mexican sides were ready to exploit these. President Lopez Portillo called it a very important thing that the fundamental political openings which the leaders of the two countries have made so far towards one another, should soon bear fruits in the specific areas of cooperation. It was also agreed that the development of Hungarian-Mexican relations had also a broader meaning as it helped countervail the unfavourable political and economic tendencies.

After the call on the president of the republic -- which was attended also by Under secretary for the Hungarian Foreign Ministry Janos Nagy and Ambassador Dr Karoly Szabo, as well as by Secretary for Commerce Jorge de la Vega Dominguez and acting Foreign Secretary Alfonso Rozenzweig-Diaz -- Jozsef Marjai began discussions with his host the secretary for commerce. These talks were attended also by senior officials of the Mexican Ministry of Commerce and Foreign Trade.

The discussants reviewed the state of economic relations and stated emphatically that each other's capabilities should be considered more thoroughly in the future and work concentrated on areas where the lasting elements of cooperation can dominate. There are initial results in certain areas but the volume of economic cooperation is still very modest, far smaller than the capacity of the two national economies would allow. Besides stressing the importance of individual deals, Jozsef Marjai informed his partner that the free capacities of the Hungarian economy in agriculture, vehicle building, education, energy development and water management and the coinciding interests of the Mexican party could put the two countries' cooperation on new lasting foundations.

Secretary for Commerce Jorge de la Vega stressed that relying on the mutual sympathy between the two countries and peoples, both sides should make greater efforts towards the exploration and exploitation of concrete cooperation possibilities. We cannot be satisfied with the present volume of trade, he said. The Mexican side considers it possible to cooperate with Hungarian enterprises -- on the basis of Mexican development concepts -- in the areas the Hungarian side marked during the meeting. The Mexican minister emphasized also that this would open good vistas and make possible to realize the mutually expressed political good will in the practice. Jozsef Marjai and Jorge de la Vega agreed to draft a work program to stipulate how the competent governmental and economic organs could help -- on the basis of the existing political and economic relations -- promote cooperation.

EL SALVADOR

ARMY COMBING MORAZAN DEPARTMENT FOR TERRORISTS

PA091855 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 8 Mar 82 pp 3, 60

[Text] The armed forces press committee yesterday reported that the search for new terrorist camps in Morazan Department started early this morning. The operation calls for a thorough combing of the cantons of Santa Barbara, Corralito and Rio Seco, where it is believed the extremists have well-established camps, the military sources indicated.

Participating in this operation are infantry units from Gotera and San Miguel, the Atlacatl Battalion and the Army 1st Infantry Brigade, supported by the Salvadoran Air Force, communications units and other specialized groups. The military sources did not disclose how many men are participating in the operation, nor how long it will last, although we learned that it would be over a week.

Apart from this operation in Morazan Department, considered one of the most mountainous regions in the country, just right for guerrilla warfare, we were also informed that the army is patrolling the whole country to try to neutralize the activities of the extremist groups. Some 1,000-2,000 troops participated in previous military operations in Morazan Department. For this reason it is believed that a similar number could be participating in this new operation.

Since Saturday, army units have been converging on Morazan Department. Early this morning they started marching toward the interior of the department and sectors along the border with Honduras.

Military sources also reported that the army will continue protecting the people that live in sectors threatened by terrorist groups. Combing operations will be carried out in the Departments of San Vicente, Usulutan, Cabanas and Cuscatlan, in other sectors in the interior of the country, and also in San Salvador and suburbs, when the operation in Morazan Department has concluded.

BATTLES CONTINUE IN SAN MIGUEL, SAN VICENTE

PA091457 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0726 GMT 9 Mar 82

[By Orlando Lizama]

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 9 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Government forces continued to encounter fierce resistance today in their offensive aimed at uprooting the leftwing guerrillas from the eastern part of the country. The insurgents, who are struggling to overthrow the government supported by Washington, attacked the cities of San Miguel and San Vicente yesterday, retreating after waging fierce battles.

Army sources reported that no less than 30 guerrillas were killed in San Miguel, the third city of importance of the country located 140 km east of the capital. The army sustained only three casualties, according to the same sources.

In San Vicente, 60 km from San Salvador, the guerrillas attacked at dawn yesterday and withdrew after a 7-hour skirmish in which at least 15 persons were killed.

The guerrillas distributed flysheets noting that leftwing groups of the FMLN have launched a new general offensive to overthrow the civilian-military governemnt junta. They also launched a thwarted offensive in 1981.

The flysheets also urge the soldiers to defect and join their ranks. Official sources also reported that there had been clashes in the Province of La Union, some 160 km east of San Salvador.

Seige by Extremists

PA100000 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 8 Mar 82 p 28

[Excerpts] The cities of San Miguel and San Vicente in the eastern and central sections of the republic began the day under siege from extremists, who have been firing indiscriminately from the suburbs in the direction of army garrisons and security force stations. It was reported today in both cities that the clandestine station Radio Venceremos had forewarned last night the civilian population of the attack and had instructed them to vacate the houses next to the garrisons.

In San Miguel, the attack was reportedly launched at 0400 from several points on the city's outskirts, where groups of riflemen and other snipers, according to reliable sources, were firing at the military installations and the surrounding areas. Activities were paralyzed in San Miguel and schools and businesses had to close because the shooting intensified. Similarly, no pedestrians or vehicles were seen in the streets.

While the harassment continued in San Miguel, Col (Jaime Ernesto Flores), commander of the 3d Infantry Brigade, reported that the city was controlled by the armed forces and that Radio Venceremos was dramatizing false, nonexistent events. He said that the bus terminal incidents (a reference to the burning of buses at the San Miguel bus terminal) had been caused by common criminals. He added that Salvadoran Air Force units were carrying out air patrols over the city and the surrounding rural areas.

Beginning at 0600 today, San Vicente, the most important city in the country's central section, was attacked by men shooting rifles, machineguns and bazookas from several areas on the outskirts of the city. Their fire was directed at the following neighborhoods: (El Calvario) in the northwest; (Concepcion) in the center; and (San Juan de Dios) in the south.

The attacks reportedly intensified in those areas at approximately 1000, when 5th Brigade troops occupied strategic positions and posted marksmen on tall buildings. In the western section of the city, 100 meters from the (Bailahuevos) stream, many snipers continously fired at the town, destroying the roofs of houses.

Sources from San Vicente reported that bomb explosions and shots from rifles and bazookas were heard. Activities were also completely paralyzed in this city. Schools were closed, neither people nor vehicles circulated, and the people were fearful.

It was reported that a helicopter flew over the city early in the morning, but did not return because the attackers intensified their firing. The shooting could be heard when our writers contacted San Vicente. Although water and electrical services were functioning, the people felt insecure because groups of extremists had taken over Radio Lorenzana last night and this morning and had played cassettes that warned the townspeople to stock up on food and vacate the houses close to military garrisons and security force's stations.

At 1030 today, the armed forces press committee announced that reports of the first casualties had been received from San Miguel. Twelve bodies were counted in the streets. It was not known whether they were civilians or some of the attacking extremists. The armed forces also reported some wounded. Fighting was still going on at that time on the outskirts of the city.

Meanwhile, it was reported from San Vicente that the fighting was continuing and had intensified in the eastern section of the city. Some dead were also reported, but no specific numbers were given.

BUSTAMANTE STRESSES ELECTION COUNCIL IMPARTIALITY

PA052140 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 3 Mar 82 p 1

[Excerpts] Dr Jorge Bustamante, president of the Central Electoral Council (CCE), today reaffirmed the organization's aboslute impartiality. He rejected party accusations and explained that so far charges have been made but not proven.

During a press conference with the local and foreign press, Dr Bustamante, accompanied by Dr Ricardo Molina Aguilar and Rene Segovia, two other full members of the CCE, said: "We stand firm in our decision to hold the first free elections in the history (of El Salvador) and to have a ballot count that will faithfully reflect the voter's will, because there could be free elections, but fraudulent count."

He said that of the registered parties only the Democratic Action Party, the National Conciliation Party, the Nationalist Republican Alliance and Christian Democratic Party have candidates for the office of deputy in all 14 departments. The Salvadoran Popular Party has candidates in 12 departments and the Popular Orientation Party in eight departments.

Regarding the accusations made by a party that some members of the government junta are engaged in partisan politics, Dr Bustamante explained that every government has the right to speak about its programs and its accomplishments.

When he was told that the number of expected foreign observers had decreased, Dr Bustamante answered that the CCE has invited delegates from the electoral organizations of eight countires, but he does not know how many the government has invited... once again he said that he does not know the number of voters who will go to the polls because there is no exact register.

GUATEMALA

PARTIES PROTEST ELECTION FRAUD, DEMONSTRATE

Army, Government Reject Charges

PA091959 Paris AFP in Spanish 1912 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Mar (AFP) -- The Guatemalan Government and Army today jointly rejected the charges of fraud in Sunday's elections leveled by the opposition parties. At the same time the authorities said they will not allow the demonstration planned for this afternoon by the three political organizations that lost in the 7 March general elections. "The elections were clean," ranking military leaders and a presidential spokesman said at noon today, during a press conference in which they referred to the triumph of the official candidate, Gen Anibal Guevara.

The National Liberation Movement, the Nationlist Authentic Central, and the Opposition Union announced last night that they will officially request the nullfication of the elections in view of a number of anomalies which led them to the conclusion that there "was fraud."

Police Counter Demonstrators

PA100030 Paris AFP in Spanish 0008 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 9 Mar (AFP) -- There were violent street clashes in Guatemala City this afternoon when opposition demonstrators tried to protest an alleged elections fraud during the 7 March presidential elections. The police used tear gas to break up groups of people trying to demonstrate. Soon afterwards there were shootouts in several areas of the city. There is no report on casualties.

Meanwhile, the National Liberation Movement (MLN) has reported the capture, under unclear circumstances of Guillermo Sandoval Alarcon, a brother of the MLN's presidential candidate.

AT 1800 (0000 GMT), the situation in the Guatemalan capital was extremely confused and three candidates who lost the 7 March elections were preparing to go to the government palace, in the company of newsmen only, to discuss the situation.

Government News Conference

PA100405 (Editorial report) Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish at 0300 GMT broadcasts a 53-minute recording of a news conference that was held in the capital at 1800 GMT. Present at the news conference are Guatemalan Defense Minister Gen Rene Mendoza Palomo; Army Chief of Staff Brig Gen Manuel Benedicto Lucas Garcia; Public Education Minister Col Clementino Castillo Coronado, and Guatemalan Telecommunications Enterprise (GUATEL) manager Col Ruben (Alvarez) Ramirez.

Presidential Public Relations Secretary Carlos Toledo Vielmann begins by stating that the government will respect the will of the people as expressed at the polls on Sunday, that it does not accept any charges of election fraud and that the president has reiterated his determination to relinquish power on 1 July to the citizen who has been elected president.

Then the public relations secretary introduces Defense Minister Mendoza Palomo, who discusses the conduct of the elections. He states that there were no major problems in carrying out the fair election. "The army reiterates that its duty is to maintain peace; this was carried out," he states. He goes on to say that the elections will not be nullified and that there is no proof of fraud. The Guatemalan authorities did everything possible to ensure free elections," he states.

Mendoza Palomo then turns the microphone over to Army Chief of Staff Lucas Garcia, who reviews the procedures the army implemented during the elections to ensure their honesty. "I would be a traitor if I had lent myself to fraud," he states.

The next speaker is the manager of GUATEL, Col Ruben (Al Arez) Ramirez, who states that "we have fully complied with our mission." He also reviews the procedures that GUATEL took regarding the elections equipment and communications.

A 15-minute question and answer period follows. The questions are almost unintelligible, although the answers are clear. The exchanges cover the topics of the election, subversives within the country, U.S. aid and street demonstrations. The news conference ends at 0353 GMT, at which time the station returns to its normal broadcast schedule.

Arrested Candidates' Comments

PA101321 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1156 GMT 10 Mar 82

[Text] Guatemala City, 10 Mar (ACAN-EFE) -- The Guatemalan media today published statements from the three opposition candidates who were arrested last night by the police and who, after their release, implied that "the government is making every effort to solve the problems peacefully."

Alejandro Maldonado, of the center, anticommunist Mario Sandoval and nationalist Gustavo Anzueto jointly claimed there was an electoral fraud that resulted in the victory of the official candidate, Gen Anibal Guevara, in Sunday's elections. The three opposition candidates were arrested by the national police and transferred to a Guatemalan secret police department, where they were held incommunicado for 1 and 1/2 hours. According to Guatemalan laws, electoral candidates are granted immunity.

The police also arrested four foreign correspondents, who were mistreated, two other local newsmen and over 50 reporters from various countries were held for several hours in a hotel in this capital. The fire department told reporters that at least six persons were shot and wounded and many others suffered from the effects of tear gas used by the police during a demonstration against the supposed electoral fraud.

These incidents took place when the three presidential candidates, opponents of General Guevara, were carrying a written protest to the president of the republic and were attacked with tear gas bombs, shots in the air, and rifle butt blows by the police. Defense Minister Rene Mendoza had warned that "any illegal demonstration would be repressed with the use of necessary measures" and advised the candidates to wait for the final official results to contest the elections.

"This is not a demonstration; we are simply three citizens walking on the street carrying, peacefully and unarmed, a request for the nullification of the elections to the president of the republic," centrist Maldonado said while the security forces hurled smoke bombs at them.

Nationalist Gustavo Anzueto declared that the minister's request is the same as waiting to be robbed before protesting.

The anticommunist leader, Mario Sandoval, criticized the slow pace of the vote count which, 2 and 1/2 days after the elections, has not yet been completed; the irregularities in many electoral minutes; the lack of telephone communications to their delegates Sunday night; the lack of agreement between figures released by the government and those included in the signed minutes, in addition to the increased number of votes in the country's desolate areas.

A specific case, the opposition candidates said, is that of voting booth No 1, of the city of Santa Rosa, which reportedly has 4,500 votes.

"If it normally takes 3 minutes for each voter, it would have required 16 hours for the inhabitants of Santa Rosa to cast the 4,500 votes that appear in the minutes, which proves the mishandling and electoral fraud," the opposition candidates concluded.

HONDURAS

TWO NICARAGUAN PILOTS FLY PLANE TO HONDURAS

Managua Report

PA081244 Managua Radio Sandino Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Text] We have an urgent report from AGENCIA DE NOTICIAS NEUVA NICARAGUA. As part of the maneuvers planned for March to destabilize Nicaragua and confuse the national and international public, two pilots of the Sandinist Air Force, FAS; and three civilians, one woman and two children; yesterday at 1350 took over a FAS C-47 airplane with registration No 208 and flew to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry today reported.

The Nicaraguan airplane landed at Toncontin Airport at 1600, where, according to the press reports, the hijackers immediately asked for political asylum.

Despite the efforts made by the Nicaraguan diplomatic mission in Tegucigalpa, no information has been obtained from the Honduran Foreign Secretariat, which is supposedly handling this case. As of 2100 yesterday, when this repor as written, the Honduran authorities had not permitted any member of the Nicaraguan diplomatic mission or newsmen to have any access to those involved in the theft of the airplane. Despite this, great publicity has been given to the incident. The names of the pilots who hijacked the airplane are pilot (Gustavo Quezada) and copilot (Octavio Barrera).

News Conference

PA082010 Tegucigalpa Cadena Audio Video in Spanish 1632 GMT 8 Mar 82

[News conference held by defecting Nicaraguan pilots (Octavio Barrera) and (Antonio Quezada) with unidentified moderator at the Honduran Air Force club -- live; broadcast in progress]

[Excerpts] [Moderator] ...(Octavio Barrera), (Julia Patricia Yantzen de Quesada) and the little girl, (Marta Patricia Quezada), who yesterday abandoned their country, Nicaragua, aboard a DC-3 airplane of the Nicaraguan Air Force. Now a question from (Mayra Navarro) of the Today newscast on Channel 13.

[Question] I would like to ask the officers of the Sandinist Air Force what prompted you to leave Nicaragua and come to Honduras?

[Barrera] One of the reasons we made the decision is that we are not supporters of that regime that is ("oppressing) Nicaragua because it is definitely communist. We are not and will never be (?communists). We dream of a free and democratic Nicaragua, not as it is right now.

[Moderator] Newsman (German Reyes) can ask a question.

[Question] Do you plan to stay in Honduras or leave for another country?

[Quezada] We want to travel to the United States and tell the whole world of all that is really occurring in Nicaragua.

[Moderator] (Raul Umana) of La Voz de Honduras will ask the next question.

[Question] The officers who have deserted from the Sandinist Army have charged that nobody can live in your country any longer. Can you be more specific about this and can you tell us if this is a generalized situation in Nicaragua?

[Barrera] We feel somewhat tired but we are going to talk about this. [Words indistinct] I can ask my fatherland to analyze the situation and why we have made this decision. In our country there is repression by the communist system. They should realize that we took a step by asking for political asylum from the sister republic of Nicaragua... [corrects himself] we have requested political asylum from the United States. Our people should become aware of this. More than 70 percent of the people are sidelined and we have no freedom of expression, no right to express our views in our country. If we express our views on the actual injustices that are committed by Cuban advisers who are the ones ruling our fatherland, we are threatened. We have no freedom of expression. We have no freedom in this regard. That is why we have made this decision because 75 percent of our people are sidelined and oppressed. I hope our people will consider and analyze our situation. We took this step as an example for our brothers who remained behind and who agree but cannot express themselves because they would be punished or taken to the execution wall.

[Moderator] (Mayra Navarro) can ask the next question.

[Question] How is the morale among the officers of the Sandinist Army? Do large numbers of Sandinist Army officers have your same attitude since there is apparently much discontent at all levels?

[?Quezada] Regarding our base, the unit to which we belonged, there is discontent. There is discontent because our companeros who pretend to be Sandinists do so because unfortunately they have to appear to be Sandinists. If there were freedom of expression, they would say they don't agree. One has to say yes. There is a slogan that says: General Directorate, you order.

[Question] In the beginning you spoke of injustices committed over there. Can you give us some details and examples of what you consider are injustices against the people and the officers?

[?Quezada] I understand that [words indistinct] the army is going to have the privilege of continuing to reign in the way that those people are going, in the way that communism is advancing. Those are the goals to be reached. That all Nicaraguans must be Marxist-Leninist. This is when Nicaragua is really going to become strong. There will be a tangible revolution. That is the desire of those people. As for the Nicaraguan people, they are oppressed. No one can speak because everyone has to do what is ordered. There are organizations such as the CDS [Sandinist Defense Committees] and the people's militias. They are organized by sectors. Even if somebody does not heed their call and does not want to attend an event, he must do so or he will be termed a counter-revolutionary, an undesirable, an antisocial individual. One does not have any voice. There is no freedom. Everyone has to do what those Cuban advisers order. In truth, the Cuban advisers are the ones who give the orders.

[Question indistinct]

[?Quezada] Most of them are Cuban advisers. All the commanders have two or three Cuban advisers so you can deduce what the situation is. In other words, Fidel Castro is the one who rules there.

[Question] The COHPAN [Honduran Council for Peace and Friendship With Nicaragua], a popular Honduran organization identified with the Nicaraguan people has charged that on Sunday around 0300 there would be an invasion of a Nicaraguan border area. Did you come to Honduras because it was going to be discovered that you were going to participate in those actions?

[?Quezada] We had planned this with my comrade-in-arms, Companero (Octavio Barrera) exactly 3 months ago. There will be a distorted reports saying that we have come precisely due to [words indistinct], that it is going to be attacked and that there is going to be an invasion. I honestly tell you that we made the decision due to the oppression within the army and among the people. We made the decision 3 months ago. Therefore, do not think that we have come in connection with the invasion that COHPAN announced. I honestly tell you that this is not the reason why we made the decision. As I said before, the reason why we made this decision is that we are not and will never be communists. [words indistinct] so that Nicaragua will once again be like our hero and martyr, Pedro Joaquin Chamorro, dreamed.

[Question] I have two questions for you: One is about the participation of Soviet airplanes in Nicaragua. Are your relatives who have stayed in Nicaragua facing any danger?

[?Quezada] First of all I ask God that this will not happen. I hope that these people will not take reprisals against our relatives. I hope they won't. As for your question about the Soviet planes in Nicaragua, yes, there are Soviet planes there.

[Question] How many?

[?Quezada] [words indistinct] suffered a fatal accident 10 days ago. Seven people died in southern Zelaya. Then there were only five (AM-2) airplanes and two [word indistinct] helicopters left.

[Question] Are there combat planes?

[?Quezada] No, there are none. They are possibly coming.

Foreign Minister Interview

PA091616 Tegucigalpa Domestic Service in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Interview with Foreign Relations Minister Edgardo Paz Barnica on 8 March in Tegucigalpa -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] How are you going to deal with the situation of the Nicaraguans who arrived here?

[Answer] I have said that we have not received any request for asylum, because the persons who arrived abroad the Nicagaruan Air Force plane have not asked for asylum. They asked the Honduran Government for protection.

[Question] Has your ministry exchanged views with the military authorities regarding this matter?

[Answer] The military authorities at various levels have reported to the government everything concerning this situation.

[Question] What steps will the Honduran Government take with regard to this situation?

[Answer] We are going to carefully analyze the situation before taking the necessary measures that best suit Honduran interests. As I have said before, Honduras is trying to improve its cordial and fraternal relations with the countries with which it already has relations.

NICARAGUA

GOVERNMENT WANTS NONAGGRESSION PACT WITH HONDURAS

PA091943 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Nicaragua will soon formally submit to the Honduran Government a proposal to sign a nonaggression pact and a plan to keep peace along the borders between the two countries, according to Guillermo Suarez Rivas, Nicaraguan ambassador to Honduras. Several days ago Honduran Deputy Foreign Minister Rodolfo Rosales Abella said there is no need for a nonaggression pact between the two countries because Hondurans have always been respectful. Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan ambassador said his country will insist on it because prevention is better than a cure.

ORTEGA REJECTS VENEZUELAN AID CONDITIONS

PA091931 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0507 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Excerpts] Managua, 9 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- Nicaraguan Defense Minister Commander Humberto Ortega warned last night that Nicaragua and the Central American peoples face serious threats. Speaking at a popular rally at the Nonaligned Plaza on the occasion of international womens day, he stated: "We do not want to create alarm, but we have the responsibility to tell our people that this month of March is very dangerous. It could be a month of more direct, military attacks on the part of U.S. imperialism."

The Nicaraguan Government "has detected flights of U.S. spy planes over Nicaragua and also officials of U.S. agencies and departments are travelling through South America, weaving a form of aggression against Nicaragua," he added. "Intelligence data of the Nicaraguan Government shows an increase in the preparations for aggression against our country as elections approach in El Salvador. From now to the day of those so-called elections will be a crucial period for the peoples of Central America," Ortega stressed.

He also stressed that the people of Nicaragua must "strengthen their defenses to prevent the destruction of the revolution and to prevent the past from returning."

"We will struggle in the political and diplomatic field to prevent bloodshed in Central America. We are struggling for just, negotiated, dignified, appropriate solutions, but if the peace efforts fail, if we are attacked, if we have to shed blood, we will do so. But we are not going to shed our blood just to repel the attacks, but to win, we are sure of that," Ortega stated.

In another part of his speech he referred to Jaime Lusinchi, the Venezuelan Democratic Action presidential candidate, whose message to the Nicaraguan people was published yesterday by the opposition newspaper LA PRENSA.

Lusinchi had said that he was "very concerned with happenings (in Nicaragua) if the peoples at the head of the internal process strengthen what in our opinion is a deviation of the original Sandinist objective."

Ortega said that "Lusinchi is trying to put conditions on the support, which, during the struggle against the deceased dictator Anastasio Somoza, was given without any condition to the peoples of Nicaragua by the most progressive and responsible sectors of the Venezuelan people," he stated. "He wants to attach conditions to aid in which he probably had no part," he stated.

"Let Mr Lusinchi know that the principal factor of triumph was the sacrifice of the peoples of Nicaragua who gave the largest quota of the bloodshed, over 50,000 martyrs," Ortega stated.

FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTS ON THREATS, PRESSURES

PA092300 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Mar 82

[Text] Those who think that they will defeat us with threats and pressures are mistaken, the Nicaraguan foreign minister said today while commenting on the recently revealed invasion plans against our country. Miguel d'Escoto said that the building of a U.S. military base on Amapala Island and the presence of a U.S. spy ship in the Gulf of Fonseca violates the trinational characteristic of these waters that belong to Nicaragua, Honduras and El Salvador.

Regarding the Sandinist Air Force plane that was hijacked by its pilots and taken to Honduras on 7 March, D'Escoto said that efforts have been made to have it returned, as guaranteed by basic principles of international law since the aircraft belongs to our country. He said that this is a criminal act that is part of the destabilization plans against Nicaragua and he expects the Honduran Government to reply favorably to the requests made. We now present statements by Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman:

[Begin recording] Here we have a problem of a violation of Nicaraguan territory and of agreements regulating the administration of the Gulf of Fonseca. This matter is being seriously analyzed and you shall know in the near future the Nicaraguan Reconstruction Government's attitude.

[Question] What about the alleged invasion of Nicaragua to have taken place on 7 March?

[Answer] I believe that this is part of psychological warfare intended to force us to surrender our sacred commitment toward creating a free country and to die if necessary in the attempt to defend and consolidate this freedom attained with the heroism of the Nicaraguan people on 19 July 1979. However, those who think that we will be beaten with threats and aggressions are mistaken. We shall not submit. [end recording]

HAVANA COMMENTS ON ELECTIONS IN GUATEMALA

FL081515 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1215 GMT 8 Mar 82

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The electoral maneuver carried out by the Guatemalan regime has been characterized by a marked abstention rate and acts of opposition in different areas of the country. Although the approximate number of votes is still not known, the official candidate, Brig Gen Angel Anibal Guevara, was already being mentioned as the probable new head of the Guatemalan regime since last night. Several of the press media in the continent say that despite the threats and the fact that many citizens were taken out of their homes so that they would vote, the abstention rate was so high that the Guatemalan authorities were forced to extend the election hours. At first the polls were to have worked until 1800, but due to the low turnout the time was extended until midnight. However, the abstention rate is very similar to the one in the electoral farce 4 years ago. At that time in 1978, the present president of Guatemala, Gen Romeo Lucas, was elected [words indistinct] few votes deposited in the ballot boxes. It is being said that in several polls in Guatemala the citizens who were forced to vote resisted the soldiers and were fiercely repressed, with many people wounded. In the Guatemalan capital itself in an event described as accidental, a soldier fired a machinegun and wounded several threatened persons waiting for their turn to vote.

The first counts noted that the official candidate, General Guevara, was slightly ahead of Mario Sandoval and Alejandro Maldonado, although it was said that the Christian Democratic candidate, Maldonado, was gaining ground. Some newspapers said that it was very ostentatious that since yesterday afternoon government spokesmen had been saying that Guatemala was beginning a new era, the same slogan which General Guevara used in his propaganda. Despite the official propaganda, the news agencies were predicting that none of the four Guatemalan presidential candidates would obtain a majority of the few votes. Since it is certain that none of the candidates will receive a majority, then the so-called Guatemalan Congress will decide which of the two candidates who received the most votes will be the next president. If that happens, it is taken for granted that the Guatemalan president will be the official candidate, General Guevara, since the parties which support him have a majority in the congress. If the congress decides that Guevara will be the new president of Guatemala, that Central American country will continue with a military leader, as it has since 1970 when the civilian Julio Cesar Mendez Montenegro ended his presidential term.

The press agencies stress that the guerrilla actions and the deaths have greatly affected the Guatemalan general elections. In Guatemala City, the capital, several armed conflicts took place, and in the interior of the country there were numerous battles. In Chisec, Department of Alta Verapaz, the guerrillas attacked the municipal hall and the barracks and set ambushes for the army. Similar acts were carried out in Clermont, El Quiche Puerto Barrios, Totonicapan, Quezaltenango and several parts of the so-called inter-American highway.

GRANMA 6 MARCH EDITORIAL ON REAGAN OAS SPEECH

FL061451 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 6 Mar 82

[Text of 6 March GRANMA editorial, final part, titled "Cuba, a Very Hard Bone To Chew and a Mortal Thorn in the Aggressors' Throat" in response to President Reagan's OAS speech on the Caribbean Basin Initiative -- announcer-read]

[Text] In his speech before the OAS, Mr Reagan resorted to the most clumsy lies and used the most vulgar and out-of-date formulas of Stone Age anticommunism in an effort to characterize the political situation in Central America and the Caribbean and explain U.S. actions in the area.

The President showed no compunction in asserting that the state of unrest and revolutionary rebellion convulsing the region is due to a new type of brutal and totalitarian colonialism which, even though it does not belong to our hemisphere, is threatening our hemisphere and has already established bases on American soil for the expansion of its colonialist ambitions.

When he spoke about the alleged extracontinental colonialist superpower, Reagan, as is to be expected, was referring to the Soviet Union, and when referring to the bases, who could doubt it? He had Cuba, Nicaragua and Grenada in mind. There is no doubt that the Yankee head of state judged that the cultural level and degree of information of some of the members of the audience were such that he could distort, without any risk, the scientific and historic meaning of the term colonialism, and place in circulation such an infamy with total disregard for the facts and realities, but which are still available to the less politicized men on the continent.

It is worrisome to know that the most powerful and aggressive imperialist country on earth, the United States, bases its international behavior, its political plans and, what is still more grave, its military activity on suppositions as arbitrary, primitive and false as the alleged expansion, to which Reagan referred, of violent revolution in Central America with Soviet endorsement and active Cuban support.

The risks and threats implied by such positions are inconcealable. In the light of this delirious reasoning, the future of the Caribbean Basin is being offered as an alternative between moderate governments, which will make their citizens happy come hell and high water, and leftwing or even ultrarightwing dictatorships, which represent all imaginable Sufferings. Reagan, of course, made sure not to cite even one example of the latter among the various rightwing and repressive regimes being endured by area peoples.

Instead of such bombastic allusions to an extracontinental threat of such falseness and pharisaism, the U.S. President could have voiced, without failing to tell the truth in a single instance, the following assertions. Throughout Latin America, a continent rich in resources and spiritual and cultural achievements of its peoples, millions of men and women are suffering from the daily privations caused by poverty and hunger. They lack a decent dwelling or protection against diseases. Their children are deprived of education or employment which constitute the means to a better life, and each day that goes by the problems become more pressing.

The demographic growth surpasses economic development. The low standards of living grow worse and unrest, the unrest of a population which knows that abundance and the elements of progress are at last close at hand, continues to increase. These statements were not made by a leftwing extremist. They were made by then President John F. Kennedy on 13 March 1961 during the days he was formulating the unsuccessful program titled Alliance for Progress and when, at the same time, the feverish preparations of the CIA and Yankee Government to launch against Cuba the mercenary aggression of Playa Giron were about to be completed.

Since John Kennedy acknowledged that each day that goes by the problems become more pressing and the unrest increases, more than 7,000 days have elapsed. What before was being presented before imperialism's more realistic ideologists and politicians as a social nonconformance with a tendency to increase, now is a telluric force which is convulsing the region. The earth shakes under the feet of the latifundistas and oligarchs, under the feet of the empire's chiefs and executors, under the feet of the buffoons and executioners, because as John Kennedy himself said on the mentioned date -- even if he was as far from accepting the transitory nature of capitalism as Reagan is -- the hungry men and women cannot wait for economic debates of diplomatic meetings.

These were statements by men who were as much of an enemy to socialism and the revolution as Reagan himself, men who did everything possible to avoid real political changes on this continent. But when they referred to the economic and social realities in Latin America and the Caribbean, they showed a minimum of honesty before the truth and a certain degree of elementary ethical sense.

The representatives of the current U.S. administration lack such attributes. A phenomenon of regression or degeneration of the political thought has persuaded them, it seems, that the world stopped when they ascended to the imperial government and that they are destined to make a clean sweep of humanity's consciousness and impose everywhere the absolute will of the more reactionary and warmongering Yankee sectors.

In this manner, as if the history of all types of aggressions could be erased with one clean sweep, aggressions which seven U.S. administrations have encouraged, financed and supported -- when not directly executed -- over a period of 23 years, Mr Reagan wants Cuba to renounce the sacred and imprescriptible right to the defense of its sovereignty and the creative life and work of its people. For the Yankee head of state apparently the sordid and hair-raising chain of hostile acts carried out against our country by the successive U.S. Governments since 1959 do not count. These include monstrous acts of sabotage, criminal economic blockade, encouraging and supporting activities by bandits, the Giron mercenary invasion, threat of nuclear extermination, plans of official U.S. agencies to assassinate Fidel and other Cuban leaders, provocations originating in the usurped Guantanamo territory, illegal and arrogant air espionage, introduction of plagues and diseases against the country's economy and population in an open flaunting of the most essential norms of civilized coexistence between states, encouragement of piracy and terrorism which has provoked abominable acts such as blowing up the Cuban airliner over Barbaros and the countless sequence of false statements, threats, intimidating military maneuvers and attempts to destabilize and cause internal difficulties in our country, which have virulently increased in recent years and, above all, after the new administration's arrival in the White House.

These are not inventions or fables. These are facts that have cost our country immense sacrifices, huge material expenses and the loss of heroic and selfless sons and daughters of our people. However, Mr Reagan, with absolute cynicism, agitated the phantasm of an alleged rearmament of Cuba and attempted to present it as a threat to the fraternal countries in Central America and the Caribbean. In a show of precision, he cited in his speech a figure of 66,000 tons of arms supplies which, according to him, the USSR had sent to Cuba in 1981. He also highly praised the combat characteristics of the MIG-23 aircraft and added that, according to information the Pentagon probably supplied him, their recent arrival in Cuba gives our country an arsenal of more than 200 aircraft. That is much more than the total number of military aircraft in all countries in the Caribbean Basin put together.

This accusation is not new. It is part of a campaign of similar tone instigated by the U.S. Republican Government since several months ago and intensified in recent weeks in threatening statements made by various spokesmen of the U.S. administration. The objective of this propaganda campaign is to make others believe that an unprecedented rearmament has taken place in Cuba since 1972, and that such military strengthening could attain such a degree that the hemispheric and vital U.S. interests are threatened, according to Secretary of State Alexander Haig.

Similar views have been used since the first days of the Reagan team in the White House to spread the news of an alleged supply of arms from Cuba, via Nicaragua, to the Salvadoran guerrillas.

In this manner, an attempt is being made to make the truth crudely disappear and to present as the cause of the conflict in El Salvador an alleged Cuban meddling, hiding the fact that it is the Yankees themselves who are intervening in that country and that they do it criminally to support the unrestricted brutality of a genocidal regime, which just last year massacred more than 12,000 persons and which is trying to crush the yearning for freedom and the struggle of an entire nation for its survival.

No American country should be afraid of Cuban arms, which will never be used for fratricidal aggression, Comrade Fidel reiterated last 22 February in a letter to Mexico's President Jose Lopez Portillo. In it, he expressed the firmest Cuban support for the noble Mexican initiative proposing a climate of relaxation of tensions in the Caribbean area. Those arms, the chief of the Cuban revolution asseted, are here to be used only and exclusively for the defense of the fatherland, and we are willing to offer the fullest guarantees to all in this sense.

We, of course, are not going to facilitate the work of the U.S. intelligence services. Whether the arms received for our defense during last year amounted to 66,000 tons; let that be an estimate of the CIA and the Pentagon. But, it is timely to recall to those who supplied that figure to the U.S. President, that so long as there is no end to the Yankee imperialist policy of threatening us with the use of force with the vain intention of making us give up our principles,and so long as all types of aggressive plans continue and there is an attempt to hound us with ultimatums, there is no other alternative for our fatherland but to prepare itself increasingly more in the military field and be ready at all times to make the United States pay the highest price if it unleashes any type of aggression against Cuba.

The United States charges that Cuba possesses more than 200 combat aircraft, but Cuba has pledged before all peoples, as stated by Fidel Castro, that it will not use its arms, any of its arms, in an aggression against another country. However, just in the proximity of Cuban territory, the neighboring imperialist superpower has developed more than 450 modern fighter bombers which do represent a force of poential use against our country, and against other countries in the Caribbean Basin and Central America, because the U.S. administration refuses to publicly renounce any option and only says that the use of combat troops is not in its plans.

Just in the air force, the U.S. Armed Forces have more than 4,000 combat aircraft. Of these, in just four military airports in the State of Florida -- Key West, Homestead, MacDill and Eglin -- there are nearly 300 fighter bombers with a range that reaches targets in our country. To this, one must add the fact that the United States usually deploys up to three aircraft carriers in the waters between Florida and the Caribbean. These aircraft carriers can carry up to 170 combat aircraft.

If these threats, real and not supposed as the ones used by the U.S. President before the OAS, still were not sufficient, the seas surrounding Cuba are now the scene of unprecedented and intense military activity. For the first time since its founding, NATO forces are conducting naval maneuvers in the Gulf of Mexico, the exercises called (Six Peace 82). This will be followed by another version of the ocean adventures which began last year -- the Ocean Venture 82 -- during which thousands of men, hundreds of combat aircraft and ships will be mobilized in our region next month, culminating with a landing of marines -- a sad remembrance for the peoples of Central America -- in the usurped Guantanamo territory, a gross rehearsal of an invasion of Cuba.

Cuba, as any other nation in the world, wants peace. It does not want or seek war. It loves peaceful coexistence among governments and peoples under the principles of respect for sovereignty and complete self-determination, and that each may select the path to political reforms which may be more suitable to its concrete conditions.

Due to this, the appeal by Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo in Managua and Cuba's full support for it have a particular significance. To reiterate our policy of peace does not mean that we renounce the sacred right of defending ourselves, of preparing all our people to resist and repel an aggression of the U.S. Armed Forces — an option about which some fatigued officials in the State Department and Pentagon constantly dream. Ronald Reagan's rhetoric does not demobilize us. Our doors have not been and will not be closed to a realistic and unconditional dialogue, but at the same time will serve as a strong shield in the face of Yankee aggressiveness and arrogance and will constitute an unsurmountable barrier for those who attempt to enter Cuba on a warpath. For those, we have iron and fire.

Do not mistreat us and we will not mistreat you, respect and you will be respected. For the steel, let steel respond and friendship to friendship, our national hero Jose Marti decreed. We do not ignore or wish the enormous sacrifices that a war implies against the mightiest superpower in history. We passionately love what we are building for the happiness and well-bing of our people, but our enemies should know that we are not afraid of them. No one is threatening the survival of the United States, but no one will accept without a resolute and heroic struggle the U.S. threat against our lives.

In effect, the United States is powerful, but we are not living in 1898 or 1933. This time the Mambi army entered Santiago de Cuba under Fidel's leadership. In Cuba, the fainthearted and submissive have forever disappeared, those who were frightened by the Yankee navy. The imperial fallacy with respect to the dangers of a new Soviet-Cuban colonization could still deceive a handful of ordinary people; others will feign believing them to gain the empire's charity, but the truth will be known in the end.

The example of freedom and full sovereignty of Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba will penetrate deeper and deeper in the hearts of the peoples in Central America and the Caribbean. The feelings of solidarity and brotherhood with the heroic fighters of El Salvador and Guatemala will become increasingly stronger and indestructible. As our commander in chief told Mexico's president, for the fraternal countries in Latin America and the Caribbean the Cuban arms will never be a threat, but a symbol of a decision voiced by Jose Marti some time ago, that of blocking in time, with Cuba's independence, the United States from spreading throughout the area and falling with that added strength upon our American lands.

In reality, we constitute a firm and irreducible trench against expansionism, which has been so painfully costly to the peoples on this hemisphere and to the heroic Mexican nation which has endured it in its own flesh, at a high price of blood, humiliation and large quantities of lands of the fatherland. The United States will never again be able to occupy Cuba as it did at the end of the last century to strengthen its neocolonial dominion in the Caribbean. To all our brothers in Central America and the Caribbean, we express the feelings and most profound convictions of nearly 10 million Cubans when we reiterate that we will be a very hard bone to chew for Yankee imperialism's teeth and that, in Cuba, the aggressors can expect the dust bathed in blood or a mortal thorn stuck in their throat.